WAR DEPARTMENT

SECRET

From: Berlin (OSHIMA)
To: Tokyo
28 May 1944

#511, 7 PARTS COMPLETE. Strictly Secret.

PART 1: Re My Message #508[a].

The following, in sum, is what Chancellor HITLER said:

1. "Where the battle is now acute is the Italian Front. Against that quarter, England and America have stacked an infinitude of weapons and materials and embarked on a drive. Nevertheless, to my view, the main object of this drive is to lure German military strength to that quarter; therefore, Germany will not count too highly the loss of more or less territory. We are putting up very stiff resistance and while inflicting huge losses on the enemy, we are retiring. Since the military situation in Italy depends much on the enemy's superiority in the air, it would be an effective measure for Germany to send in aerial reinforcements, but in this matter other military theatres are concerned and we are refraining from doing so. ~~For some time Germany has used the Appenine~~ Originally, with a view of using the Appenine range and of maintaining the Italian front, Germany ~~established a powerful range, and with a view to maintaining the Italian front,~~

Japanese #124402
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established a powerful position ~~here~~ There, but we realized that from the point of view of expediency, ~~making these~~ it was necessary to defend Rome, so, south of that city, on a line ~~reaching~~ running from the Alband ~~vicinity~~ neighborhood ~~of~~ The past a point ~~on the Tiber~~, ~~running~~ south of Gransasso to ~~a point~~ north of Pescaro, we ~~have~~ formed a certain line ~~position~~ which we call "Position C", and with the idea in mind that I have already described, while inflicting as much damage as possible on the enemy, we will retire to this line.

PART 2:

2. The temporary ease on the Eastern Front now continues, but I am thinking that before long the Soviet will charge. For the time being, Germany has taken the steps necessary to attain the object of staving it off. The Hungarian army also has already sent seventeen divisions to the front. Romania, too, has practically the same number on Line #1. In view of past experience, Germany saw proper to place some of her finest divisions, particularly armored divisions, among these foreign troops. Despite the fact that the defense of Europe we realized had best be exercised at the River Don, neither Hungary nor Romania understood this. However, this time more concern seems to be expressed on their faces than before because the flames are now close

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to their own borders. So far, they have come out rather well."

I then asked, "What course do you judge that the Soviet drive will follow?", and HITLER answered, "Two. I think that they will head northwest from the Lemberg area and penetrate into the General Government by which I mean Central Poland, and also invade Romania. I think that the drive from the Lemberg quarter will come first, and then an attempted invasion of Romania," and further explained, "As I told you the last time, I am not satisfied to stay on the defensive forever and when I see my chance I intend to turn to the offensive again."

PART 3:

3. Speaking of the Second Front, HITLER said, "I believe that early or late an invasion action will be carried out against Europe. On the British Isles there are already about eighty divisions of men gathered together, I believe." (Actually among them, there are a mere eight divisions of real fighting men that have experience in actual warfare.) I then asked, "Does Your Excellency believe that these Anglo-American forces are fully prepared to invade," and

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HITLER answered, "Yes.". I waited for a moment and went on, "I wonder what ideas you have on how the Second Front will be carried out," whereupon HITLER answered, "Well, as for me, judging from relatively ominous portents, I think that Ablenkungsoperazionen(diversionary actions) will take place against Norway, Denmark, the southern part of western France, and the coasts of the French Mediterranean--various places. After that, after they have established bridgeheads on the Norman and Brittany Peninsulas and seen how the prospect appears, they will come forward with the establishment of an all out Second Front in the area of the Straits of Dover. As for Germany, it would be most desirable, if a chance were to be had, to smite them in as brief a time as possible, but if the enemy does what I have just described, their men will be dispersed. Expecting this, we intend to finish off the enemy's men in many spots." Then he continued, "The number of German troops in the west, just as the last time, make up about sixty divisions.

PART 4:

4. To this I said, "I, too, figure that the signs point toward the coming of an invasion sooner or later by

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the Anglo-Americans. Since the enemy apparently intends to take this step, or even if perchance he does not, there is much to think about. During my last conversation with you, you told me that in case they did not come you thought you might blast southern England, using rocket guns and find an opportunity to take the initiative again on the Eastern Front. Well, since then, the Anglo-Americans have been bombing this area stronger than ever and I wonder if these instruments you were going to shoot at England with have not been destroyed." HITLER answered, "No, these guns are in an arsenal made of impermeable concrete. They are in no danger." Again I spoke up, "If the Anglo-Americans do not stage an invasion, don't you think it would be a little dangerous to return your troops to the Eastern Front?? HITLER answered, "Well, I have no intention of waiting forever for them to come. I will give them two or three months more time but if they don't come then, Germany will take the offensive. By that time, adding the ones we have now finished organizing and equipped, we will have between 60 and 70 divisions. (I seem to remember that he said that 45 of them were armored divisions.) Then we will be able to take the offensive."

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(Also he said that he had exceeded his plans for organizing S.S. divisions and that 25 of them had already been practically organized and equipped.)

PART 5:

Pursuing, I pointed out to him the past record of the German-Soviet war and went on to say, "The line where both the German and Soviet armies now face each other, leaving out the three Baltic nations, is just about what it was when this war started. For you to go ahead and repeat a drive with the same idea in mind that you have always had, could not, would not after all decide that conflict. I think that you ought to adopt another view of some sort, and wage an action like that of Canae long ago. What does Your Excellency think of that?" HITLER paused a moment and continued, "To tell you the truth, the Soviet striking power has more or less weakened. Soviet manpower is now, generally speaking, on the front line about 700 and on the second line about 200 divisions, so it is said, but let us stop to consider its makeup. A whole lot of these divisions are not even up in strength to ... more regiments, in my opinion. The same is true of their equipage. The quality of their infantry has deterior-

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ated extremely, but the ~~cavalry~~ artillery and tanks are excellent. Following their experience in real warfare, their use of great groups of ~~artillery~~ artillery has increased tremendously, and speaking of the calibre of their shells, although they are in no wise technically superior to ours, since they use large amounts of various materials like tungsten and molybden, they are qualitatively superior to ours. Their tanks, particularly T-34's, in view of the nature of the terrain on the Eastern front, are better than Germany's. The Tigers ~~lack weight~~ are excessively heavy, and in time of schramm (mud), they cannot be used. In some cases, we put sturmgeschutze, also, (I think I may translate this "assault guns") on the controls. The Panthers, too, are nothing more than of an experimental nature. They have had any number of kinderkrankheiten (minor defects.)

PART 6:

Recently, we have succeeded in improving them and in the Soviet, highly mobile field guns are absolutely necessary. Before long, we are going to attach a considerable number of assault guns to every unit and establish 45 assault gun brigades as general army reserves. We are gradually mak-

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ing progress. Moreover, principally out of consideration of our war with the Soviet, we have just ordered Speer to carry out our plans for increasing assault guns and tanks. By January of next year, it appears that we are likely to have a monthly output of 1,800 assault guns and 1,500 tanks. As for the Luftwaffe, although we are found numerically wanting since America entered the war, in the meantime, as a result of having concentrated on increasing fighter planes in particular, our monthly amount in September is scheduled to reach 6,000 and by January of next year, 8,000. (HITLER spoke of fighters, but I think he meant to include pursuit planes and Schnellbombers.) In the past, damage wrought by English and American air raids has indeed not been small, but as you know, most of it has been against dwellings in general and although innocent people have been killed and wounded and much material damage has accrued, harm wrought to factories and other production equipment is very light compared to that.

PART 7:

"The most important airplane construction equipment has already been put under ground for the most part, and in

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two months this work will be about finished, thus enabling us to reduce a step further the effect of air raids. And I expect that from now on the military situation will continue black for Germany, but at least this year we will gain an opening that will enable us to regain the initiative," so he added.

5. During this conversation Chancellor HITLER asked me about conditions in Greater East Asia, particularly the battle of India; how the battle of Honan was going; what our plans were; and what America's war strength and plans appeared to be. As I knew hardly anything about these things, I merely gave vague explanations. However, I told him that the Empire of Japan is now doing her very best to increase the output of airplanes and ships and that I believed that as we progressed in this enterprise, we would turn with a vengeance to the further prosecution of the war.

In this message there are points which have to do with Germany's future schemes concerning the conduct of actions, so I want you please to be most careful to guard their secrecy.

a - SSA #124309.

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